

Thank you, everyone for joining us at this year's summer connection aboard the GRAND RIVER CRUISE.

We were honoured with the presence of the Western Regional Councillor of the Professional Engineers of Ontario: Vicki Hilborn, P.Eng. In attendance were 5 members of the Executive: The Chair - Mariana Balaban, PhD, P.Eng, GLP Chair - Larry Drebert, P.Eng, Secretary – Oluremi Odejayi, and Chapter Volunteers - Dora Martinho, P.Eng and Nicole Snively, P.Eng.

We had 44 participants aboard the Grand River "Princess" boat, which departed around 12:00 p.m. with Captain Denise in command.

The Chair welcomed all participants to the cruise, appreciated all members of the executive for their commitment, and discussed the benefits of being involved with the Professional Engineers of Ontario and the chapters. Mariana requested participants' cooperation, sought suggestions to further strengthen the chapter, and listed the remaining activities for the year, hoping to see everyone get involved.

Captain Denise took us through the brief history of the Grand River Dinner Cruises which began in 1972 when John Albin, a farmer, built a houseboat for his family along the Grand River to enjoy the holidays. He later built a larger boat and collaborated with a bus company which grew into the business of offering riverboat cruises. The business launched in 1978 (46 years ago) with the "Grand River Belle", and it eventually became a family business, with their children joining them as they grew older. The fine dining experience was introduced in the mid-1990s, and over time, the business expanded by adding two more boats: the "Grand River Queen" and the "Grand River Princess".

Western Region Councillor Vicki welcomed participants and implored them to get involved with the activities of the Professional Engineers of Ontario and the chapters by volunteering for immediate and future experiences.

It was a relaxing environment surrounded by professional colleagues from Ottawa, Hamilton, Oakville, Niagara, and Mississauga chapters, as well as family and friends.

We were served a delicious three-course dinner that included both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options.

It was a great afternoon of networking, great meal options, and refreshing drinks as we sailed smoothly to shore at 2:54 pm despite a tornado watch in some parts of Southern Ontario.

The Chair gave a vote of thanks to the crew and all participants, followed with a group photograph of everyone with Captain Denise.

Brantford chapter appreciates everyone's presence and support at this event, and we look forward to welcoming you at our Perch Dinner in October!

Do have a wonderful week.

Warm regards,

Oluremi Odejayi
Secretary